

IN THE CLAIMS:

This following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-identified application:

List of Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A stripping assembly (10) for stripping a can from a punch in a can bodymaker (1), the assembly (10) comprising:

a plurality of stripper fingers (12) spaced around an annular housing(32); and
~~a biasing device~~ a resilient O-ring (20) for biasing the tips (34) of the fingers (12) radially inwardly from the housing (32) into a central bore (5) of the bodymaker (1); and

~~an actuator~~ a piston (14, 54) within the housing (32) which, in use, when the punch is carrying a can through the bore on the forward stroke, lifts each finger tip (34) clear of the can carried on the punch, against the action of the ~~biasing device~~ resilient O-ring (20), and when the punch is on the return stroke, is disabled so as to allow the ~~biasing device~~ resilient O-ring (20) to cause the finger tips (34) to close and strip the can from the punch; and

~~characterized in that~~ the fingers (12) ~~are resiliently being mounted upon a~~ resilient O-ring (42) for self-aligning with the cut edge of the can on the return stroke of the punch.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled.)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim 1, in which the fingers (12) include an inner portion (26) and an outer ~~(27)~~ portion (27) within the housing, and the outer portion (27) ~~contacting~~ contacts a lip (16) about which the fingers (12) pivot on the forward stroke as the piston (14) pushes the inner portion (26) of the fingers (12).

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim 1, in which the ~~actuator~~ piston (14) is situated in an upstream portion and the biasing device (20) in a downstream portion of the stripping assembly.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim 1, in which the fingers (12) include an inner portion ~~(56)~~ and an outer ~~(57)~~ portion within the housing, and the inner portion ~~(56)~~ contacting contacts a point (58) about which the fingers (12) pivot on the forward stroke as the piston (54) pushes the outer portion ~~(57)~~ of the fingers (12).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim 6, in which the ~~actuator~~ piston (54) is situated in a downstream portion of the stripping assembly.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The stripping assembly according to claim 6, further including a guide ring 50.

Claim 9. (Cancelled.)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim 1, in which the ~~actuator~~ piston (14) ~~further comprises~~ is actuated by one of compressed air ~~or~~ and fluid.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The stripping assembly according to claim [[1]]
10, in which ~~the~~ one of compressed air ~~or~~ and fluid flow is operated by a solenoid which
is timed by a signal from the bodymaker (1).

Claims 12-14. (Cancelled.)